

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05478 141642Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5478

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE

REF: (A) USNATO 5362, (B) STATE 223574

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING POLADS NOVEMBER 13 DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES TO LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE, SOME ALLIES SUPPORTED SUBSTANCE OF UK DRAFT NOTE TO LARG, BUT THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR IDEA OF IDENTICAL ALLIED NOTES. UK SUPPORTED BY ITALY ADVOCATED DELIVERY OF NOTES TO LARG BY END-NOVEMBER, BEFORE SCHEDULED DECEMBER PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON LAW OF SEA. ACTION REQUESTED: TEXT OR DESCRIPTION OF U.S. PROPOSED NOTE, WITH INFO ON PLANNED TIME OF DELIVERY, FOR POLADS NOVEMBER 20. END SUMMARY.

1. AT NOVEMBER 13 DISCUSSION OF ALLIED RESPONSES TO LIBYAN CLAIM TO GULF OF SIRTE, UK REP SAID LONDON HAD AGREED, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE "COORDINATED" ALLIED NOTES, TO DROP "PROTEST" FROM LAST PARAGRAPH OF DRAFT UK NOTE (REF A). ITALIAN, GREEK AND FRG REPS AGREED WITH SUBSTANCE OF UK NOTE. U.S. REP DREW UPON REF B, WELCOMING UK DRAFT NOTE
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PAGE 02 NATO 05478 141642Z

AND SUGGESTING REVISIONS PER PARA 2, REF B.

2. AS TO TEXTUAL SIMILARITY OF ALLIED NOTES, TURKISH AND NORWEGIAN REPS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS PLANNED SHORT NOTES

RESERVING THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. BELGIAN REP ARGUED AGAINST IDENTICAL NOTES SO AS AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF "A COMMON FRONT AGAINST THE ARABS" AND EXACERBATING ARAB XENOPHOBIA. GREEK REP AGREED AND FRENCH REP MADE CLEAR HIS GOVERNMENT RETAINED A FREE HAND AS TO WORDING OF NOTE. UK REP SAID THAT BY "COMMON ALLIED RESPONSE," LONDON DID NOT MEAN IDENTICAL TEXTS.

3. ON TIMING, UK REP REFERRED TO A UN MEETING PLANNED FOR DECEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND SAID LONDON HOPED ALLIED NOTES COULD BE DELIVERED TO LARG BY NOVEMBER 30. ITALIAN REP SUPPORTED UK. FRG AND NETHERLANDS REPS QUESTIONED WHETHER EARLY TRANSMISSION OF NOTES WOULD BE OPPORTUNE IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. UK REP THOUGHT POLADS MEETING NOVEMBER 20 WOULD BE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON NOTES FOR DELIVERY BEFORE MONTH'S END. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED POLADS RETURN TO SUBJECT OF NOTES NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF IDENTICAL ALLIED NOTES, OR A UNANIMOUS ALLIED POSITION, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF NOTES ARE LIKELY TO BE SIMILAR TO UK DRAFT. FOR NOVEMBER 20, WE WOULD APPRECIATE PROPOSED TEXT OR DESCRIPTION OF U.S. NOTE, TOGETHER WITH INDICATION AS TO TIMING FOR DELIVERY.
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